

Remarks

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 79-81 and 91-126 are pending in the present application, with claims 79, 91, 97, 103, 109, 115 and 121 being the independent claims. Claims 79, 81, 91, 94, 97, 103, 106, 109, 115, 118, and 121 have been rejected, and objections have been made to claims 80, 92, 93, 95, 96, 98-102, 104, 105, 107, 108, 110-114, 116, 117, 119, 120, and 122-126.

II. Summary of the Office Action

In the March 4, 2002 Office Action, the Examiner made final the Restriction Requirement of Paper No. 19. The Examiner also rejected claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, has rejected claims under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting, and has objected to claims as depending from rejected base claims. Applicants respectfully offer the following remarks to overcome or traverse each of the elements of the Office Action.

III. Response to Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 79, 81, 91, 97, 109, 115, and 121 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The Examiner argues that the term “substantially purified,” which is recited in the claims, is not defined in the specification or the claims and, therefore, one skilled in the art would not be able to assess the metes and bounds of the claim. Applicants respectfully disagree. The term

“substantially purified” is defined in the specification at, for example, page 7, lines 23-26 and, thus, one skilled in the art would understand the metes and bounds of the claimed invention. Therefore, this rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

IV. Response to Obviousness-Type Double Patenting Rejection

The Examiner has rejected claims 91, 94, 103, 106, 115, and 118 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. However, Applicants have obviated this rejection by filing herewith a terminal disclaimer. Accordingly, this rejection is now moot and should be withdrawn.

V. Response to Objection

The Examiner has objected to claims 80, 92, 93, 95, 96, 98, 99, 100-102, 104, 105, 107, 108, 110-114, 116, 117, 119, 120, and 122-126, but notes that the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Although not explicitly stated in the Office Action, Applicants understand that the Examiner has objected to these claims because they depend from rejected base claims.

In view of Applicants’ arguments provided above, Applicants respectfully submit that the base claims are allowable. Accordingly, this objection is improper or, in the alternative, is moot and should be withdrawn.

VI. Summary

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Response is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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